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FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION**

Malaysia

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1996 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Malaysia which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $3,000,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $850,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1997 to 2000.

* E/ICEF/1996/18.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43/Add.2).

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BASIC DATA
(1994 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, 0-15 years)	7.9
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	15
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	12
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	23.3
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	80
Literacy (% male/female)	89/78
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female)	../..
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	98
Access to safe water (%)	78
Access to health services (%)	..
GNP per capita	$3,520

One-year-olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis:	97 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	90 per cent
measles:	81 per cent
poliomyelitis:	90 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	79 per cent

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. As explained in the Malaysia country note (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.28), Malaysia has sustained remarkable economic growth. A National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children set goals consistent with the Declaration of the World Summit for Children. Strong leadership, a plan to reduce poverty, a well-developed physical and institutional infrastructure and social programmes have contributed to Malaysia's success in achieving and sustaining most of its mid-decade goals.

2. Although under-five mortality has dropped rapidly, acute respiratory infections (ARI) remain a major killer of children with 12,000 pneumonia cases and 340 deaths in 1992. The level of moderate malnutrition is high at 19 per cent in 1995. Some social problems have emerged in the wake of economic growth. These include, child abuse and neglect, and various problems concerned with youth such as drug addiction and HIV/AIDS. Another affected group is low-income working women, many of them young, for whom the quality of child care remains difficult to assure.

3. These problems require community-level action. A basis for this action exists in voluntary community organizations, which are recognized and often supported by the Government and which have existed for decades in both rural and

urban areas. In addition, all rural communities have a resident community nurse as the basis of the primary health care system. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector are seen as potentially valuable in supporting social development efforts.

4. The Government's Seventh Plan devotes almost 20 per cent of its total allocation to social sector programmes, a one third increase over the previous period. 1/ Also noteworthy is the establishment of a Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, to formulate strategies for the social sector. The Secretariat of this Committee is provided by the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development (MNUSD), the Ministry responsible for government programmes for children.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1994-1996

5. Given Malaysia's achievements and level of development, the contribution of UNICEF, in financial terms, has been modest, but not without effect. The current programme of cooperation has helped to strengthen national capacity to focus programmes on achievement of the World Summit for Children goals, the NPA and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These programmes have worked towards universal coverage by focusing on disadvantaged groups. Studies of early childhood development (ECD) and child abuse, and a survey indicating the existence of a public health problem regarding iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), have influenced policies and programmes. UNICEF also supported the development of training for child protection workers in the treatment of child abuse and neglect, the training of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in Sabah and Sarawak, and innovative approaches to decrease maternal mortality.

Lessons learned

6. While Malaysia has the capacity to maintain and extend gains in the delivery of basic services, emerging problems make community participation indispensable. UNICEF can play an important role in strengthening linkages among governmental entities and between government and non-governmental groups.

7. Highly effective professional support from UNICEF has fostered sharing and exchanges of experiences and concepts in child-related and other social policy areas. The cooperation has helped to place the Malaysian child and family at the centre of national social development by broadening the support networks among communities, NGOs, the private sector, the media and the academic community. This institutional networking is part of Malaysia's development strategy which should further facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1/ Although it is not currently possible to determine precisely how much of this goes to the priority or basic social sectors such as PHC and basic education, the proportion is believed to be quite high.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1997-2000

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
General resources					
Child survival	70	60	60	50	240
Child development	140	100	160	100	500
Child protection	100	100	86	114	400
Child participation	65	70	55	60	250
Advocacy and social mobilization	50	58	42	50	200
Monitoring, evaluation and policy analysis	60	50	40	55	205
Programme support	265	312	307	321	1 205
Subtotal	750	750	750	750	3 000
Supplementary funding					
Child survival	20	30	40	40	130
Child development	40	50	60	60	210
Child protection	30	40	50	50	170
Child participation	20	30	40	40	130
Advocacy and social mobilization	20	25	30	30	105
Monitoring, evaluation and policy analysis	20	25	30	30	105
Subtotal	150	200	250	250	850
Total	900	950	1 000	1 000	3 850

PROPOSED PROGRAMME COOPERATION 1997-2000

8. The proposed Government of Malaysia/UNICEF programme is based on the situation analysis and the programme strategy. Preparatory activities included a 1995 National Consultative Forum on Caring for Children and a 1996 meeting of 400 NGO and government participants to follow up on the Beijing Platform of Action for Women. Discussions also were held with representatives of UNICEF Executive Board member countries resident in Malaysia, and with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

9. Priorities of the Seventh Malaysia Plan include balancing economic growth with increased equity and quality of life as the basis for stable, sustainable progress towards "the caring society" foreseen in the national planning perspective known as "Vision 2020".

10. The objectives of UNICEF cooperation are in accord with priorities contained in the Seventh Malaysia Plan: (a) to support achievement of the goals for the year 2000; (b) to help implement and monitor the Convention of the Rights of the Child; and (c) to explore opportunities for Malaysia to contribute to efforts for children in other developing countries.

11. Equity in the Malaysian context means universal access to social benefits and to the economic mainstream. The combination of public and private sector preschooling is expected to become near universal. For rural communities lagging behind national levels of economic and social progress, major social investments are planned to increase individual capacity among children, youth and women. Community development efforts will combine access to social benefits, with support to income generation, and will include the involvement of community-based organizations. Thus the major strategy for UNICEF cooperation will be to support capacity-building for community action and to assist further development of institutional networks to support community action.

12. The strategy on community action is based on the principle that solutions to many problems require changes in people's attitudes and behaviour. Moderate child malnutrition, for example, is probably due to inadequate care of the young child, including feeding practices, the solution to which would require education and communication on child care for at-risk families.

13. Process analysis documentation and dissemination of programme experience and outcomes will be promoted for the purposes of policy development and helping Malaysia contribute to development efforts for children in other countries. Given the strategic involvement of the private sector and NGOs, combined with the focus on children and the family, the Malaysian experience in increasing equity and quality of life could contribute to the success of similar efforts elsewhere.

Child survival

14. The objective is to reinforce government and community efforts to further reduce deaths from ARI and maternal mortality. More participatory approaches will be developed towards building knowledge, understanding and motivation among communities, leading to community decisions about their planned actions. UNICEF will provide technical assistance for the development of communication approaches to help parents recognize symptoms of pneumonia and other forms of ARI early in their onset and to build parental awareness of the need for prompt referral. Related activities will seek to mobilize communities and to make more timely referrals of pregnant women facing dangerous situations in childbirth. In Sabah and Sarawak, activities will seek to improve linkages between TBAs and the health referral system.

15. Activities will be undertaken with the Ministry of Health and other government and non-government entities, including rural cooperatives/Ministry of Rural Development and MNUSD.

Child development

16. The objectives are to support the strengthening of the quality of public and private sector child-care services; the expansion and quality improvement of public and private preschool coverage; and malnutrition reduction.

17. ECD is a government programme covering both child-care and preschool centres. Activities in the private sector will also be supported. Technical assistance for the training of child-care workers and rural preschool teachers aims at establishing appropriate community-based approaches. UNICEF also will support Government communication efforts to reinforce public understanding of the importance of ECD.

18. To support government efforts towards eliminating moderate malnutrition, a nationwide participatory study of child-care practices and parenting skills will be supported. The study results will help in the development of an ECD policy and improved policies for nutrition and preschool education. Methodological assistance will seek to develop training models for strengthening community-level child-care and child-minding and for preschool teachers, particularly in rural areas. Communication support will improve parenting skills through interpersonal approaches and information materials. General resources will support developmental activities in all these areas, which may be extended with the use of supplementary funds.

19. The programme involves inter-agency collaboration. The role of MNUSD is key as it is responsible for overall coordination in ECD. The Ministry of Rural Development, including its new Training Institute for Rural Development, has specific responsibilities for child-care and preschool services in rural areas. The Ministry of Health will coordinate the national study on child-care and parenting practices. UNICEF will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education on preschool issues. NGOs, such as the National Council for Child Welfare and the National Council of Women's Organizations, plus several university faculties, will also participate.

Child protection

20. The objective is to support implementation of the NPA on child abuse, exploitation and neglect as part of Malaysia's efforts to implement the Convention.

21. In accordance with the NPA, community action will be the key strategy to address protection problems as most of them occur in or near the home. UNICEF will provide technical assistance for building capacity of the child welfare and protection system from the national through to the subdistrict level. Communication activities will increase community understanding and involvement, together with parenting skills, in both prevention and rehabilitation. In addition, UNICEF will support a review of the child protection system to improve coordination and focus among government organizations and NGOs.

22. UNICEF will help to develop modules to extend existing child protection training to the state, district and subdistrict levels, and support communication training for the expansion of child protection teams, comprised of

officials, volunteers and NGOs. Simple guidelines that communities can use to detect child abuse and neglect at an early stage will be disseminated. UNICEF will support the development of conflict resolution skills for schoolchildren and community groups, as well as a study of the juvenile justice system by the Department of Welfare, in cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Law Faculty of the University of Malaysia. General resources will support these developmental activities, and supplementary funding will be used to expand community-based child protection activities.

23. The Department of Social Welfare, MNUSD, is the major partner for welfare officer training; the Training Institute for Rural Development is responsible for community development personnel; and the Ministry of Education is responsible for teachers. Several NGOs active in child protection will be partners in media activities. Overall responsibility for NPA monitoring rests with the MNUSD, which will also ensure programme coordination.

Child participation

24. The objective is to help young people develop appropriate decision-making skills while building their self-confidence and responsibility for their own actions. UNICEF will support operational research to strengthen public sector management of Malaysia's 9,000 youth organizations, thus helping to improve the quality of participation for the 1.8 million young people in these organizations. UNICEF will provide technical assistance in education for development and programme communication to strengthen capacity, including entrepreneurial and leadership abilities of youth. The lessons learned from these youth development activities will be used for policy development.

25. UNICEF will assist the Ministry of Youth and Sports to analyse programmatic issues facing youth organizations. District-level officials from these organizations will participate. This research will seek to identify multi-ethnic models and approaches, including those appropriate for congested urban neighbourhoods. UNICEF also will support healthy lifestyle programmes for youth, through both schools and youth organizations, to prevent social alienation. Communication strategies will involve young people themselves in devising solutions to problems they identify. Assistance for expanding the use of education for development will enrich the process in schools.

26. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Education and NGOs will be partners in these activities. Core activities will be funded from general resources, with activities to be expanded, notably in education and communication, with supplementary funding.

Advocacy and social mobilization

27. UNICEF will work with the Malaysian Council for Child Welfare, which represents 32 children's organizations, to raise awareness and deepen public understanding of child rights. Support will be provided to the multisectoral committee responsible, under MNUSD, for reporting on the Convention in 1997. UNICEF will support an annual report on the State of the Malaysian Child to facilitate monitoring, policy dialogue and public information. With NGOs and the private sector, UNICEF will support the Government in extending the duration

and reformulation of the NPA up to the year 2020. UNICEF also will assist in the establishment of a documentation centre on the Malaysian child.

Monitoring, evaluation and social policy analysis

28. UNICEF will continue to support the inter-agency group set up to monitor the NPA and the decade goals in (a) updating data on the survival goals; (b) developing multiple indicator cluster surveys for child nutrition, the use of oral rehydration therapy and IDD; and (c) identifying indicators for child protection, child development and child participation activities. These activities will also assist the Government in monitoring child rights.

29. UNICEF and the Government will cooperate in analysing social policy and programme experiences that could be used in programmes for children elsewhere. This will involve expert analysis and documentation of experience of programme cooperation to enrich Government-UNICEF dialogue on policies affecting children, and to support Malaysia's exchange of experience on initiatives for children with other countries within the region and globally. For example, lessons from Malaysia's programme experiences will be shared in regional consultations. Where appropriate, these experiences and analyses may be published in technical journals or adapted for broader audiences. The mid-term review will consider the options for cooperation beyond the year 2000.

Collaboration with other United Nations agencies

30. Monthly United Nations coordination meetings are held for exchanges of information and the development of common strategies. Meetings are also held on specific topics, such as HIV/AIDS, gender equity and the girl child, to which the Government is invited to present papers and discuss issues. These arrangements will continue to enrich the proposed programme.

Resource mobilization

31. The sale of greeting cards and related products within Malaysia is a planned source of supplementary funding and the possibility of private sector fund-raising is under consideration.

Programme management

32. The Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Office collaborates with UNICEF in planning the country programme with the assistance of sectoral ministries which implement the projects. UNICEF has an office in Malaysia with four staff members. The programme support allocation of this country programme covers the total staff and office costs. A senior programme officer carries out advocacy, planning and programme implementation, as well as institutional networking with the UNICEF regional office. A General Service staff member assists with advocacy and communication with institutional networks and undertakes administrative and finance functions. There is one secretary and one driver.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : MALAYSIA
PROGRAMME : 1997-2000

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
CHILD SURVIVAL	240			240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHILD PROTECTION	400			400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	500			500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION	200			200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MONITORING, EVAL. & POLICY ANAL.	205			205	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	1,205			1,205	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	645.4	263.0	908.4
CHILD PARTICIPATION	250			250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GR	3,000			3,000	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	645.4	263.0	908.4
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
CHILD SURVIVAL		0	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHILD PROTECTION		0	170	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHILD DEVELOPMENT		0	210	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION		0	105	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MONITORING, EVAL. & POLICY ANAL.		0	105	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHILD PARTICIPATION		0	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SF		0	850	850	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GR & SF	3,000	0	850	3,850	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	645.4	263.0	908.4
ADM. & PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs			0.0													
	Staffing				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRAND TOTAL (GR+SF+ADM)					0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	645.4	263.0	908.4
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											1		3	4			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											1	0	3	4	645.4	263.0	908.4

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
ADM = administrative.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Exclude temporary assistance and overtime; include costs of United Nations volunteers.